

REMARKS

This paper is submitted in reply to the Decision on Appeal dated October 28, 2005, within the two-month period for response. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are respectfully requested.

In the subject Decision, the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences affirmed the Examiner's rejections of claims 1-4, 7-9, 13, 17-29, 23-26 and 29-30 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,064,970 to McMillan et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,393,346 to Keith et al. and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,006,148 to Strong, but reversed the rejection of claims 5-6 and 21-22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over McMillan et al. in view of Keith et al. and further in view of Strong.

Applicants have now canceled claims 3, 5, 19 and 21 and amended claims 1, 4, 6, 13, 17, 20, 22-23 and 29 to place the case in condition for allowance. Specifically, claims 1 and 17 have been amended to respectively incorporate the subject matter of claims 5 and 21, which the Board found to be distinguishable from the prior art of record. Claims 3, 5, 19 and 21 have been canceled, and claims 4, 6, 20 and 22-23 have been amended to correct dependency, for consistency with the amendments to claims 1 and 17.

In addition, with respect to the remaining independent claims, claim 13 has been amended to incorporate the same language from claim 5 that was added to claim 1, while claim 29 has been amended to essentially recite the subject matter from claim 21 that was found by the Board to be distinguishable from the prior art of record. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that claims 13 and 29 are patentable over the prior art, and furthermore, as these claims incorporate subject matter found to be allowable by the Board, these amendments do not raise any new issues, and are appropriate for consideration by the Examiner.

In summary, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are novel and non-obvious over the prior art of record. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending


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claims are therefore respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions regarding the foregoing, or which might otherwise further this case onto allowance, the Examiner may contact the undersigned at (513) 241-2324. Moreover, if any other charges or credits are necessary to complete this communication, please apply them to Deposit Account 23-3000.

8 NOV 2005

Date

Respectfully submitted,



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